CLAIMS

1. A method of treating excess weight in a mammal by continuous administration of 1 mg protein/kg body weight/day or less of an OB protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein (SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein (SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the methionyl residue at position -1;

(d) the protein of (a), (b) or (c) lacking a glutamine at position 28; and

(e) a chemically modified derivative of (a), (b),(c) or (d).

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the chemically modified derivative is a pegylated derivative.

3. A method of claim 2 wherein the pegylated derivative is N-terminally pegylated.

4. A method of claim 1 wherein said continuous administration is accomplished by osmotic pump.

5. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 1.

6. A vector containing a DNA sequence according to claim 5.

7. A vector of claim 6 wherein said vector is pCFM1656.

8. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 3.

9. A vector containing a DNA sequence according to claim 8.

10. A vector according to claim 9 wherein said vector is pCFM1656.

11. A method of refolding partially purified OB protein in a solution obtained from inclusion bodies, said partially purified OB protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein (SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein (SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the methionyl residue at position -1;

wherein said refolding is accomplished using N-lauroyl sarcosine.

12. A method of claim 11 wherein said sarcosine is used at a concentration of 0.5% - 2.0% weight per volume of solution.